

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2923

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 709

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, UR

SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS ON PEACEKEEPING

REF: STATE 36201

1. AMBASSADOR SCHEUFELE AND MISOFF LORENZ MET WITH SMUN COUNSELLOR OVINNIKOV AND FIRST SECT. BEREZOVSKIY MARCH 1 TO OUTLINE US VIEWS ON HOW BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON PEACEKEEPING MIGHT BEST BEGIN IN ORDER TO REACH EARLY AGREEMENT. SCHAUFELE DESCRIBED IN DETAIL SPECIFIC POINTS OF US POSITION, AS SET FORTH PARA 4 REFTEL. HE EMPHASIZED THAT US HAD TRIED HARD TO MEET SOVIET CONCERNS, AND HOPED USSR WOULD RESPOND IN KIND. OVINNIKOV'S REACTION WAS POSITIVE.

2. AFTER SCHAUFELE'S PRESENTATION, OVINNIKOV SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY REGARDED US APPROACH AS SERIOUS EFFORT TO REACH ACCOMMODATION. HE WOULD REPORT FULLY TO MOSCOW, WHERE, ON BASIS OF HIS RECENT TALKS WITH SOV FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PEACEKEEPING, HE ANTICIPATED RECEPTIVE RESPONSE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS SINCERE DESIRE IN MOSCOW TO REACH
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AGREEMENT ON THIS LONG-STANDING DIVISIVE ISSUE, ADDING THAT HE HAD

DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH KUZENTSOV AND ISSRAELIAN DURING HIS RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN MOSCOW. OVINNIKOV ASKED IF USSR COULD BE GIVEN A PAPER DETAILING POINTS MADE ORALLY BY SCHAUFLE. (IT IS NORMAL FOR SOVS HERE TO WANT A PIECE OF PAPER, AND IN THIS CASE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GIVE THEM ONE SUITABLY DRAFTED. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO DO SO.)

3. OVINNIKOV SAID QUESTION NOW WAS WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT PEACEKEEPING WORKING GROUP. SCHAUFLE REPLIED THAT BEST COURSE WOULD APPEAR TO BE TO LET WORKING GROUP MEMBERS EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ABOUT GENERALIZED GUIDELINES, AS THEY SEEMED DISPOSED TO DO. CERTAINLY THERE WAS NO DISPOSITION ON OUR PART TO GET INTO QUESTIONS OF DETAIL WHILE SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WERE TAKING PLACE WITH USSR. OVINNIKOV SAID HE COMPLETELY AGREED, BUT HAD HEARD THAT WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN OGBU MIGHT HAVE SOME INITIATIVE UP HIS SLEEVE.

4. OVINNIKOV SAID HE APPRECIATED AND SYMPATHIZED WITH US DESIRE TO WORK TOWARD MORE GENERAL PRINCIPLES SINCE NEGOTIATIONS ON DETAILED GUIDELINES WOULD NEVER RESULT IN AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT CRUCIAL QUESTION OF PERMANENT MEMBERS ROLE DURING COURSE OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATION WAS NOT INCLUDED IN SCHAUFLE'S PRESENTATION. SCHAUFLE SAID HE REALIZED THIS, AND THAT WAS ONE OF REASONS HE HAD CHARACTERIZED APPROACH AS PRELIMINARY. HE NOTED ALSO THAT US HAD SINGLED OUT PERMANENT MEMBERS AS MEMBERS OF ARTICLE 29. COMMITTEE, IN SITUATIONS IN WHICH IT WAS CONSIDERED DESIRABLE TO HAVE SUCH A COMMITTEE. OBVIOUSLY, PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS WILL NOT WORK UNLESS CERTAIN LEVEL OF AGREEMENT EXISTS BETWEEN PERMANENT MEMBERS, AND US RECOGNIZED THIS.

5. IN EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH UK AND CANADA, BRITISH MISSION OFFICER (LOGAN) REACTED VERY FAVORABLY TO US APPROACH EVEN THOUGH IN HIS OPINION SOVS SHOULD HAVE MADE NEXT MOVE. CANADIAN MISSION OFFICER (WANG) SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE INITIATIVE WAS A GOOD ONE. HOWEVER, HAVING RECENTLY RETURNED FROM CONSULTATIONS IN OTTAWA, WANG EXPRESSED CANADIAN CONCERN THAT AGREEMENT ON GENERALIZED GUIDELINES MIGHT RESULT IN THE DISSOLUTION OF COMMITTEE OF 33. CANADIANS, WHOSE TRADITIONAL SENSITIVITIES AS PEACEKEEPING COUNTRY WERE REINFORCED BY

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LENGTHY, DETAILED AND SOMETIMES DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS WITH UN AND POLES ON UNEF LOGISTICS CONTINGENT, ARE CONCERNED THAT SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING GENERALIZED GUIDELINES MIGHT SLOW DOWN MOMENTUM FOR NEGOTIATING FURTHER DETAILS IN WHICH THEY INTERESTED. AS DEPT AWARE, CANADIANS TAKE THIS MATTER VERY SERIOUSLY. NEVERTHELESS HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT OTTAWA WOULD WELCOME ANY FORWARD MOTION EVEN IN GENERALIZED TERMS.

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